Disclosure Information

I have no financial relationships to discuss and I will not discuss off label use and/or investigational use in my presentation.

Western Occupational Health Conference 2010
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Objectives

- Learn about the science that links workplace practices and products to human safety and health and the health of the environment.
- Understand how environmental sustainability is embedded in the health care sector’s strategic imperatives.
- Identify specific workplace practices and product decisions in health care that impact human safety and health and the health of the environment.
**About Kaiser Permanente**

- At Kaiser Permanente, we play every position across the health care continuum. We provide the health care, the medical facilities and the insurance coverage.
- Founded in 1945, KP is the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plan
- Nine states and Washington DC
- Health plan members, 8.6 million
- Employees, 167,000
- Physicians, 14,600
- Medical offices (clinics), 431
- Hospital-based medical centers, 35
- Operating revenue, $41 billion
- Doctor office visits, 37 million
- Prescriptions filled, 129 million
- Surgeries, 547,338
- Mammograms, 1.1 million
- Secure e-mails sent to physicians and clinicians in 2009, 8.6 million

**Sustainability = Health Care**

KP’s Strategic Imperatives

- Transforming Quality and Service
- Growing Membership
- Improving Cost Structure
- Implementing Infrastructure
- Enabling Performance through People

Environmental Stewardship Contributions

- Reduce environmental contributors to disease
- Attract “green” consumers
- Save from energy conservation and waste reduction
- Reduce vehicle trips through e-mailing your doctor
- Empower staff through Green Teams

**Pollution and Health**

Tested for 27 industrial chemicals

- **Mercury**
  - 9.16 mg
- **Pesticides**
  - DDT 7.3 ng/g
- **Flame retardants**
  - BDE-47 13.1 ng/g
- **Perfluorochemicals**
  - PFOA 7.4 ng/mL
- **Bisphenol A**
  - 0.82 ng/mL
- **Phthalates**
  - MBP 42.88 ng/mL

Health Disparities: Exposures to harmful chemicals in the environment have greater health consequences in disadvantaged communities where poor nutrition, limited or no access to preventive health care services, and inadequate opportunities to exercise are the norm.
Overarching Principles

- Prevention Focus
- Protection of the Biosphere
- Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- Reduction and Disposal of Wastes
- Energy Conservation
- Risk Reduction
- Transparency
- Commitment to Social Equity
- Safe Products and Services
- Environmental Restoration
- Engage the Public
- Leadership Commitment
- Audits and Reports

Our Priorities

Safe Chemicals  Climate Action

Sustainable Food  Waste Reduction

Safe Chemicals

- What we’re doing
- Safer chemicals; fewer chemicals
- Procurement actions
- Public policy
- Impact on worker health
- Reduced opportunity for occupational exposure
- Prevention of diseases caused by environmental exposures
Climate Action

• What we’re doing
  • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  • Public policy

• Impact on worker health
  • Active transportation is healthy for workers and the environment
  • Fewer vehicle trips reduce risk of traffic accidents
  • Better air quality

Sustainable Food

• What we’re doing
  • Farmers markets
  • Sustainable food sourcing
  • Informing public policy

• Impact on worker health
  • Fresh and healthy foods at the workplace
  • Promotes healthy weight
  • Supports control of diabetes
  • Less exposure to chemicals used in industrial agriculture

Waste Reduction

• What we’re doing
  • Recycling
  • Take back programs

• Impact on worker health
  • Good waste segregation is safer
  • Less volume to lift/handle
Case Studies

- Cleaning chemicals
- Gloves
- Mercury

Governance and Accountability

Role of Occupational Health Clinicians

Occupational health physicians and other clinicians are in a unique position to promote effective patient care while limiting the negative effect on the environment of providing that care, and to explain the medical ramifications of environmental exposures.

References:
- American Medical Association
- California Medical Association
- American Public Health Association
- JAMA article by Paul S. Auerbach, MD, MS
More Information

www.kp.org/green

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